

## **Benjamin H. Latrobe to Thomas Jefferson, November 20, 1817, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.**

### **Latrobe to Jefferson**

*Washington Novr. 20th 1817*

THOS JEFFERSON ESQR.

*Dear Sir,*

Your letter has remained a week unanswered in consequence of my absence, but immediately on my return I wrote yesterday to Philadelphia, desired one of the Carpenter's pricebooks to be sent to You, which I have no doubt will be done without loss of time.—

I am under the necessity of resigning my situation at the Capitol. The present Commissioner, Colonel Lane, has from the first week, treated me as his Clerk, & certainly not with the delicacy with which I treat my mechanics. The public have suffered beyond calculation by the effects of the system, & more by its administration. I will not trespass upon your time to explain, but perhaps some enquiry made by made [sic] in Congress on the subject. I have had no access to the President since the first days of his Administration, during which he acted in regard to the public Works with a justice & decision, which in spite of the Commissioner, has given us this incomparable marble. I shall ever revere his character, as then exhibited.—

I shall probably reside in Baltimore where I am building the Exchange, unless I could succeed Mrs Baldwin in Virginia.

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Most truly Yrs.

B H Latrobe

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress.]